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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 522  
Education—Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students—Report**

**Ways and Means Committee  
February 19, 2020  
1:00 PM**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 522, legislation that would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to study and make recommendations related to the Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for career and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Educators know that the single best place for our students to be in order to best provide them with an education that will prepare them for college, career, and life is in our classrooms and school buildings. However, there are times when, due to extenuating circumstances, our students are unable to physically be present in their classes. These circumstances should not lead to an interruption in their learning if and when possible. The Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students is meant to be the next best option for times when students are unable to be in school. It is critical that this program is meeting the needs of our students and that the instructional supports necessary for keeping them on pace toward meeting their class completion and graduation requirements are functioning as intended. By requiring MSDE to evaluate and submit a report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly, we can have a fuller picture of how this program is currently functioning and make any necessary adjustments to places where it may not be functioning as intended.

**MSEA urges a favorable report on House Bill 522.**